man exclaims: 'Let us pray !* Yet, though familiar, they acquired a freshness from the resolute and unequivocal manner with which Sir Samuel stated them. This time he really was going to pray.

Having delighted the League of Nations Union, it remained to ensure that no ill-consequences should result; a drunkard who in the excitement of a revivalist meeting publicly takes the pledge, may still on the way home surreptitiously replenish his pocket flask. Sir Samuel Hoare and M. Laval worked out a plan which, while it left Haile Selassie with a fragmentary kingdom connected with the sea "by a slender desert strip, gave Mussolini effective control of most of Abyssinia. The arrangement was intended to be secret until its practicability had been tested, and ultimately to be submitted to the League Council, whose approval its architects presumably thought might be obtained; but a leakage in Paris led to its premature publication. At first the version of it which appeared in the French Press was officially dismissed as inaccurate and misleading. This attitude was difficult to maintain when what had been published was largely authentic; and at last it was reluctantly admitted that Sir Samuel and M. Laval had, with the best possible intentions, tentatively drafted what they thought might provide a basis for an Italo-Abyssinian settlement.

At once a great storm broke. Sir Samuel, from being the most righteous of Foreign Secretaries, became the most execrated; pacifists of all varieties rose up in their wrath, a formidable company, and even National Liberals breathed defiance. When *The Times* turned on its own, what could poor Sir Samuel do

but resign? Et tu, Brute! His tenure of the Foreign Secretary-
ship, which had begun so gloriously, ended thus sadly, with
almost universal blame. In one of those scenes dear to politicians
and journalists, when reserve is broken down and the man
emerges from the statesman, when Cabinet Ministers may weep[9]

[9] Men of action are often tearful. Cromwell was given to weeping. ("To
render his persuasions more efficacious, he avails himself of tears, weeping
more over the sins of others than his own.') Mr, "Winston Churchill and
Mr. J. H. Thomas have tears, and are prepared to shed them.